

COMMEMORATION OF THE 34TH
EARTH DAY

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, today the United States commemorates the 34th Earth Day. In celebration of the Nation's commitment to a healthy environment, I urge my colleagues to devote sufficient resources and attention to providing safe and clean water for all Americans. The Congress must expand its efforts to provide communities with the resources and tools necessary to meet our enormous clean water challenges. I ask Members to join me in making an Earth Day commitment to support significant, long-term, sustainable funding for our Nation's water and wastewater infrastructure.

This Nation has realized significant environmental improvements over the last three decades. Yet, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reports that some 40 percent of our Nation's assessed lakes, rivers, streams, and estuaries are still too impaired for their designated uses such as fishing, swimming, or as a drinking water supply source. Discharges from aging and failing sewage systems, urban storm water and other sources continue to pose serious threats to our Nation's waters, endangering not only public health, but also the fishing and recreation industries.

Population growth and development place additional stress on the Nation's water infrastructure and its ability to sustain hard-won water quality gains. EPA itself stated that without significant new investment in wastewater infrastructure, the gains of the past 30 years will be lost. Maintaining clean, safe water remains one of our greatest national and global challenges and responsibilities.

EPA's Clean Water and Drinking Water Infrastructure Gap Analysis found that there is a gap in excess of \$400 billion between current spending and projected needs for water and wastewater infrastructure over the next 20 years. It is critical that the Federal government do its part in partnership with state and local governments in order to avert the pending water infrastructure crisis. That is why the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure supports expanded funding for addressing water quality needs.

Unfortunately, the current Administration seeks to reduce the Federal commitment to water and wastewater infrastructure. The President's budget for fiscal year 2005 cuts funding by \$815 million, even as the need for funding increases. The cuts are indefensible, and imperil the Nation's ability to maintain water quality, let alone improve it.

In celebration of this Earth Day, I encourage all Members of the House to support legislation aimed at investing in the improvement of water quality in our Nation's lakes, rivers, streams and estuaries.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL PRIMARY
IMMUNE DEFICIENCY DISEASES
AWARENESS WEEK

HON. WILLIAM L. JENKINS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the week of April 19th as National Primary Immune Deficiency Diseases Awareness Week. Primary immune deficiency diseases (PIDD) are genetic disorders in which part of the body's immune system is missing or does not function properly. The World Health Organization recognizes more than 150 primary immune diseases which affect as many as 50,000 people in the United States.

I am familiar with primary immune deficiencies because of a young man in my district, Matt Seals, who was born with an extremely rare PIDD called X-linked Agammaglobulinemia (XLA), a genetic disorder that prevents his body from producing B-cell antibodies that protect him from infections. Matt experienced difficulty and delay in diagnosis of his primary immune deficiency disease. Despite the recent progress in PIDD research, the average length of time between the onset of symptoms in a patient and a definitive diagnosis is 9.2 years.

Those who remain undiagnosed may suffer repeated and serious infections and possibly irreversible damage to internal organs. That is why it is critical to raise awareness about these illnesses with the general public and health care community. I want to commend the Immune Deficiency Foundation for its leadership in the areas of education and support, and I am proud to join them in recognizing the week of April 19th as National Primary Immune Deficiency Diseases Awareness Week.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JERAULD D.
FERRITTO, JR.

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Dr. Jerauld D. Ferritto, Jr., a successful and respected podiatrist from my district, upon the completion of his tenure as President of the American Podiatric Medical Association.

Following in the footsteps of his father, Dr. Ferritto began his podiatric career at the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine, Cleveland, Ohio, in 1972. In 1977 he established a practice in Grove City, Ohio.

Dr. Ferritto's unwavering integrity, trail-blazing spirit, and energetic quest to expand recognition for the field of podiatric medicine serve as a role model for countless young practitioners of that fine profession. His credentials include Board Certification by the American Board of Podiatric Surgery and by the American Board of Podiatric Orthopedics and Primary Podiatric Medicine. He is generous in his giving, and has served the profession in a myriad of ways, including tenure on the Council on Podiatric Medical Education and Medicare's Region V Carrier Advisory Committee.

It is my honor to represent a constituent whose leadership helps ensure the continued mobility and independence of our citizens through the delivery of medically necessary and appropriate foot and ankle care.

TRIBUTE TO DR. C. DOUGLAS
PARKS

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Dr. C. Douglas Parks on his retirement from the Aptakistic-Tripp School District 102 in Buffalo Grove, Illinois. After thirteen years as Superintendent and nearly forty years in public education, Dr. Parks is retiring, committed in both belief and practice to that idea that all children can learn. The vision and leadership he has provided ensure that School District 102 is and will continue to be a world class learning environment.

During Dr. Parks' tenure, he worked to expand opportunities for learning for all children, believing that every student should have a supportive environment, every student should be involved both individually and collectively in learning, and that every student can be empowered through learning. He has remained committed to developing a foundation of respect, pursuit of excellence, accountability, fairness, trustworthiness and honesty in his district. Besides applying these principles to academics, he is also committed to improving the quality of life for his students, because he believes that the learning environment has no boundaries.

I would like to extend my thanks to Dr. Parks for being such a positive influence in District 102, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. LYNDON
JOHNSON

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Lyndon "Lady Bird" Johnson, Texas' first First Lady, who has impacted the lives of many with her selfless contributions.

Mrs. Lady Bird Johnson has created a living legacy through her tireless efforts throughout her lifetime. During her years in the White House, Mrs. Johnson was an important advisor to her husband, and a passionate advocate for numerous causes. She served as honorary chairman of the National Head Start Program. She also devoted her time as First Lady advancing the cause of women in government, holding special luncheons for women of achievement, and suggesting women for top official posts.

While in Washington, she promoted the growth and protection of the country's national parks, and the planting of wildflowers on the nation's highways. Upon returning to Texas, she established the National Wildflower Research Center in Austin. In 1998, its name was changed to "The Lady Bird Johnson